

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3824

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires NJT to establish pilot program to provide free rides on rail, light rail, and bus service to individuals eligible for Access Link service.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning a pilot program to be established by the New  
2 Jersey Transit Corporation.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. a. The New Jersey Transit Corporation shall establish a  
8 five-year pilot program that provides free rides on rail passenger  
9 service, light rail passenger service, and motorbus regular route  
10 service provided by the corporation, or by an entity under contract  
11 with the corporation, to individuals who are eligible for the  
12 corporation's Access Link service.

13 b. The corporation shall establish policies and procedures for  
14 the pilot program, including but not limited to policies that provide  
15 for a user-friendly approach that aims to reduce any barriers and  
16 provide ease of access to participating in the pilot program, the  
17 automatic enrollment of each individual who has been determined  
18 to be eligible for the corporation's Access Links service, and a free  
19 ride for the personal assistant of an eligible passenger when that  
20 personal assistant is accompanying the eligible passenger.  
21 Participation in the pilot program shall not impact an individual's  
22 eligibility or authorization to utilize Access Link service and the  
23 corporation shall provide written notice, and a verbal explanation  
24 upon request for clarification, to all individuals eligible for the pilot  
25 program that clearly indicates that participation in the pilot program  
26 does not impact the individual's eligibility or authorization to  
27 utilize Access Link service. The corporation shall also publish this  
28 notice on the corporation's website.

29 c. For the duration of the pilot program, the corporation shall  
30 require annual training for each employee, including employees of  
31 an entity under contract with the corporation, that may interact with  
32 participants in the pilot program on the policies and procedures for  
33 the pilot program and how to appropriately interact with such  
34 participants. This training shall be in addition to any training  
35 otherwise required by law.

36 d. On or before October 31 of each year, the corporation shall  
37 prepare and submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to section  
38 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature. The report  
39 shall include information on the total number of trips provided  
40 pursuant to the pilot program for the previous and current year  
41 along with the expected total for the end of the current year, the  
42 total number of passengers served for the previous and current year  
43 along with the expected total for the end of the current year, the  
44 overall level of customer satisfaction with the pilot program, any  
45 costs or savings created as a result of the pilot program, any  
46 relevant feedback on the pilot program provided to the corporation  
47 by pilot program participants, advocacy groups, or community-  
48 based organizations with knowledge and expertise of the rights and

1 challenges of individuals with disabilities, and any other  
2 information that the corporation determines is appropriate. For the  
3 fourth and fifth reports required pursuant to this subsection, the  
4 corporation shall include a section that provides analysis on how the  
5 pilot program could be improved and whether the corporation  
6 recommends that the Legislature permanently adopt the pilot  
7 program.

8 e. As used in this section, "Access Link service" means the  
9 paratransit service implemented by the corporation for purposes of  
10 complying with the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,"  
11 Pub.L.101-336 (42 U.S.C. s. 12101 et seq.).

12  
13 2. This act shall take effect immediately but shall remain  
14 inoperative until January 1 following the date of enactment, except  
15 that the corporation shall take such anticipatory action as may be  
16 necessary for the timely implementation of this act. This act shall  
17 expire on the sixth January 1 following the date of enactment.

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20 STATEMENT

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22 This bill requires the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ  
23 Transit) to establish a five-year pilot program that provides free  
24 rides on rail passenger service, light rail passenger service, and  
25 motorbus regular route service to individuals who are eligible for  
26 NJ Transit's Access Link service. As part of the pilot program, NJ  
27 Transit is required to provide annual training on the policies and  
28 procedures for the pilot program and how to appropriately interact  
29 with pilot program participants.

30 The bill requires NJ Transit to report annually on the pilot  
31 program. In the fourth and fifth years of the pilot program, NJ  
32 Transit is required to include a section in the report that provides  
33 analysis on how the pilot program could be improved and whether  
34 the corporation recommends that the Legislature permanently adopt  
35 the pilot program.